A True

RELATION

At large of the whole

PROCEEDINGS

During the Impriſonment of

Cornelius de Witt,

Old Burgermaſter of the City of *DORT*, *Ruwaert* of the Country of *Putten*, &c.

As alſo the Sentence paſt upon him.

TOGETHER

With a full Account of the Maſſacre committed upon the ſaid *Cornelius de Witt*, and his Brother *John de Witt*, late Rate Pentionaries of *Holland* and *Weſt-Frieſland*, upon the 20th of *Auguſt*, 1672. at the *Hague*.

With Allowance.

LONDON,
Printed for *Randal Taylor* at the Crown in *Little Britain*, 1672.

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William Tichelaar a Chirurgion, Inhabitant in *Peirſhal*, informing the Court of Juſtice, that the Heer *Cornelius de Witt* old Burghomaſter of the City of *Dort*, *Ruwaert* of the County of *Putten*, had contracted with him for a certain ſum of Money, and other great Promiſes, to make away the Prince of *Orange*, which being taken into deliberation by thoſe of the Court, it was reſolved at the Houſe of the Heer Preſident, that Order ſhould be given to the Advocate Fiſcal and the other Officers, to tranſport themſelves to the City of *Dort*, to apprehend and bring with them the ſaid *Ruwaert van Putten*; where they arrived the 24th of *July*, whereupon the ſaid Fiſcal executed his Order accordingly, and brought the ſaid *Putten* to the *Hague*; where being landed, he deſired a Coach, but was anſwered that he was to walk on foot: On his way, being guarded by the Fiſcal and another Officer, one ſtept in uſing theſe words in deriſion, *Where are your Halberdeers now to ſecure you?* Being ſecured in the Caſteleney on the 25th of *July*, he was the ſame day about noon examined by the full Court, as alſo the following days, with confronting the Chirurgion, who went free in and out of the Priſon. During this, the Chirurgion

went home, and fetcht further Certificates; and at his Return, on the sixth of *August* was lodged in the same Prison with *Ruwaert van Putten*; and though it was the vacation time, yet they were examined the following days by the Counsel of the Court, face to face. Mean time the late Rate Pensionary *de Witt*, his Brother, was very diligent both day and night, advising with several of the ablest Civilians, to contrive his Brothers Releasment. Wherupon a Paper of Madam *Van Brockel* his wife, was delivered to the Court, to this effect: *That the said Chirurgion had not seen her Husband but once for above a years time, which happened on the 8th of* July, *at the house of the said* Ruwaert *at* Dort, *who was at that time sick in bed; that he held not a quarter of an hours discourse with him, neither directly nor indirectly gave him any invitation, but came freely of himself; and that which was remarkable, was, his desire to speak with the said* Ruwaert *alone, who refused it, but at the second or third instance was admitted. Besides, that the Wife of the said* Ruwaert, *considering the wickedness of the times, was troubled at his private access to her Husband, whose ill-aspect portended him no good, in regard of the late attempt made upon her Husbands Brother not many days before, which in all humane probability had been executed, had not the Watchmen prevented their design; which grounded apprehension through Gods Providence directed her, as a safeguard to place her Son and Servant at the Chamber-door, that in case the said Chirurgion had any evil design upon her Husband, assistance should be near at hand, and withal to hear the passages between them; the Son affirming that he plainly heard their discourse,*

which

which the Father repeated after the Chirurgion was gone; whereby it did appear there had not been the least syllable of what the Chirurgion laid to his charge. The discourse being as followeth: Having declared to him the dangerousness of the times, he had somewhat to discover to him, which might retain a secresie; *To which* Ruwaert *made answer*, That in case it concerned the States, or was of bad consequence, it ought to be discovered. *Upon which, the Chirurgion took his leave, saying*, Sir, if you are not willing to know it, I shall be silent, and so fare you well.

The Humble Petition of the Wife and Friends of *Cornelius de Witt*, Sheweth,

THat the Ruwaert van Putten *at present Prisoner, your Petitioners did expect after some days to have seen him at liberty, the Crimes laid to his charge being altogether groundless, and the malicious invention of his Accuser; and for this cause we were advised to present the circumstances relating to the clearing of the said Prisoner, not doubting but that his innocency will appear, and accordingly have an honourable dismission.*

Notwithstanding this, the Lords of the said Court continued to examine both parties: but upon *Tuesday* the 16th of *August*, a report was spread as if the said *Ruaert* had made his escape, which drew a great concourse of People; whereupon some of the Lords went to the Prison, and caused *Ruwaert van Putten* to shew himself to the People, who upon his appearance called to the Rabble, *bid them be gone, the Devil*

vil take ye, what do ye do there? This Tumult was occasioned by a Coach waiting upon a certain Lord near the Prison, which was supposed by the People to be design'd for *Ruwaert's* Conveyance. The Tumult was no sooner ended, but the Burgers began to appear in Arms, and his Highness the *Prince of Orange* was supplicated that some Companies might be ordered for preserving the peace. His Highness return'd them this answer, That he thanked the Burgers for their great care, that the said *Ruwaert* was out of his hands and committed into the hands of Justice, to whom he fully intrusted the business: the effects whereof did appear by a strict examination taken at a full Council. On the 18th of *August* he was brought to the place of Torture, and accordingly Racked by the Executioner; there declaring, that if they cut him to pieces, he would to the last maintain his Innocency.

Upon the 20 of *Aug.* the following Sentence was pronounced against *Cornel. de Witt* in the said Prison.

THe Court of Holland *having seen and examined the Papers and Writings delivered by the Procurator General against* Cornelius de Witt *old Burgermaster of the City of* Dort, *as likewise his examination, and proofs made against him*, &c. *and having also considered all what is requisite to the matter in hand; Doth declare the said Prisoner to have forfeited all his Dignities and Offices belonging unto him, and that with expedition he shall be banished out of the Countries of* Holland *and* West-Friezland, *never to return again upon pain of severe punishment. And further condemns him in the Costs and Charges of the said Court.* Adrian Pauw *President*,

Aelbrecht Nierop, Willem Goes, Frederick van Leir, Cornelis Baen, *and* Mattheus Gool, } *Counsellors of* Holland *and* West-Friezland.

Pronounced in the Prison of the said Court, August 20. 1672.

Adrian Pott.

The manner of the Death of John de Witt, *and his Brother* Cornelius de Witt.

AT the ſame time, being the 20th of *Auguſt*, *John de Witt*, late Rate Pentionary of *Holland*, underſtanding his Brother was to be ſet at liberty in order to his Baniſhment, made haſte to diſcharge him from the Priſon, where he went in his Coach, and leaving it ſome little diſtance from the Priſon-gate, went in to his Brother, and after two hours ſtay with him, about eleven of the Clock, the Priſon-gates were ſet open, and the two Brothers ſtood at the door in order to be gone; but before they could take Coach, a great noiſe was heard, upon which a Burger ſaid, *Away, away, into the Priſon.* For the Chyrurgion being releaſt ſome time before, Reported that *Ruwaert* was diſcharged, and offered to make good his Accuſation againſt him before God and Men; and told them that *Ruwaert van Putten* offered him 30000 Gilders with a conſiderable Employment, and ſome Ducatoons in hand, to kill the Prince of *Orange*. Upon this diſcourſe the Rabble flocked together, crying, *Arm, Arm*; and immediately appeared Six Companies of Foot who ſurrounded the Priſon, notwithſtanding three Troops of Horſe were drawn out to prevent Diſorder.

About four of the Clock in the Afternoon ſome of them demanded to have the Priſon-doors open; which being refuſed, ſo many volleys of ſhot were diſcharged againſt them, that a paſſage was quickly made

made to go in; where in a horrible manner they were both kill'd in a moment: after which, their Bodies were ſtript, dragged to the common place of Execution, and hung up by Legs upon the Gallows, where their Fingers, Toes, Ears, Noſes, Hearts, and Privy Members were cut off and mangled in a moſt barbarous manner, and ſold up and down the Town, a Joynt of a Finger for 12 Stivers, a whole one for 15 Stivers, a piece of an Ear for 25 Stivers, and a Toe for 10 Stivers, and ſo proportionable. So horrid and diſmal a Spectacle in all its Circumſtances was ſcarce ever ſeen or heard of.

FINIS.